



MEMORANDUM

To: Douglas Harbor Authority

From: Lisa Nocerini, City Manager
Jeff West, Councilmember/KLHA Board Member
Sue Guevara, KLHA Board Member

Date: March 17, 2026

Re: Kalamazoo Lake Harbor Authority – Economic and Fiscal Benefit Study Proposal Update

City staff will be providing an update regarding a recent proposal presented to the Kalamazoo Lake Harbor Authority (KLHA) for the completion of an Economic and Fiscal Benefit Study related to Kalamazoo Lake and its surrounding recreational and harbor infrastructure.

At the most recent KLHA meeting, Greg Weykamp of Edgewater Resources, in coordination with Vetter Consulting Enterprises, LLC, provided a proposal outlining four (4) distinct tasks intended to collectively establish a comprehensive economic impact and fiscal benefit assessment associated with boating, tourism, recreation, dredging activities, access improvements, and marina or harbor investments throughout the Kalamazoo Lake system.

The proposal is broad in scope and is estimated to cost approximately \$30,000 if undertaken in full. The study is intended to support long-term regional decision-making across the City of Douglas, the City of Saugatuck, and Saugatuck Township.

During the KLHA discussion, staff recommended that the member communities pause prior to committing to the full scope of work and instead consider beginning with Task 1 only, which focuses on clarifying goals, priorities, scope, and expectations among the participating jurisdictions. This phased approach would allow for alignment regarding intended outcomes prior to the commitment of additional funds.

City Council input has been received and provided guidance regarding:

- Whether to pursue Task 1 as an initial step;
- What priorities or outcomes should be addressed through such an effort; and
- Any concerns or guidance that should be shared with the KLHA Board.

Council feedback will be shared with KLHA representatives and brought back to the KLHA Board at its March 24, 2026 meeting for further consideration as part of upcoming budget cycle discussions.

This memorandum is intended to serve as an informational update in advance of a more detailed presentation at the March 17, 2026 DHA meeting.